JEFFREYS's

OBSERVATIONS

ON

The Use of Cubebs, or Java Pepper,

IN

THE CURE OF GONORRHŒA.

Price Three Shillings.

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From the Author

PRACTICAL

OBSERVATIONS

ON

THE USE OF

THE

Cubebs, or Java Pepper,

IN

THE CURE OF GONORRHŒA.

WITH CASES.

BY

HENRY JEFFREYS, ESQ.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

Within the last three years the Cubebs or Java Pepper has been recommended, on very respectable authority, to the notice of the Profession, as a medicine of high pretensions in the cure of Gonorrhœa. The failure and disappointment, which so frequently attend the ordinary modes of treating that complaint, had long rendered a more efficacious remedy a desideratum in the practice of Surgery. The Cubebs, therefore, quickly attracted general attention, as well out of the Profession as in it; but no detailed account of its agency has yet been given to the world.

The author of the following pages has had extensive opportunities of putting the powers

of this new remedy to the test: and his design, in offering these Observations and Cases to the consideration of the Public, is, simply, to record the result of his experience. He has, therefore, purposely avoided entering at large into the History of Gonorrhœa. But he trusts that this little Essay will not be unacceptable on that account; and he will feel abundantly gratified if it should be the means of extending the reputation of a remedy, which surpasses most others in power and efficacy, and is perfectly mild and safe in its action.

33, CLARGES STREET, PICCADILLY,
APRIL 23, 1821.

OBSERVATIONS,

&c. &c.

GONORRHŒA is a disease, which has descended to us from very remote antiquity, and is, for obvious reasons, one which must at all times have occupied the attention and exercised the skill of the medical profession in an eminent degree. Notwithstanding this, no remedy has, even up to the present period, been devised for its cure, that can be considered at all entitled to the distinguished character of *a specific;* nor any mode of treatment instituted, capable at once of cutting

short the disease with any degree of certainty or safety. It may, indeed, be truly asserted, that it is in the power of medicine to do little more than combat or palliate the symptoms. Such, too, we may add, is the deceitful variableness of this disease, and so little is it under the control of art, that a plan of cure, which shall apparently succeed with perfect ease in one case, shall entirely fail in another, which it may yet closely resemble in all its prominent circumstances and characters.

After the introduction of the Lues Venerea into Europe, and while that disease and the Gonorrhœa were supposed to arise from one and the same virus, practitioners flattered themselves, that if mercury were a specific for the one, it must, also, prove equally beneficial when exhibited for the cure of the other. It, therefore, became a common practice to admi-

nister that mineral, in some form or other, throughout all the stages of Gonorrhœa, and to push its action even to salivation with as much care and assiduity as in the ordinary forms of primary syphilitic affections.

But experience, the best and only test that can be depended upon, has fully proved, that no reliance is to be placed upon that mineral, at least as *a specific*, in the cure of this disease; and I apprehend, that amongst the enlightened practitioners of the era in which we live, there are not many who will be found to contend for the identity of the gonorrhœal and syphilitic contagions, or to insist upon the exhibition of mercury as necessary, or even useful, in the cure of the first of these affections.

The Gonorrhœa is a disease of a particular character, arising from the application of a specific contagion to a secret-

ing membrane, and varies exceedingly in the severity and duration of its symptoms in different constitutions. It is always more or less inflammatory in its attack; and is capable of spontaneous cure; or, in other words, of wearing itself out. The time, however, which this may require is uncertain. Even when assisted by a strictly antiphlogistic treatment, an abstemious diet, and confinement to a couch, this disease is often lingering and variable in its duration, frequently exceedingly troublesome and distressing in its consequences, and always one of peculiar annoyance to the patient. There is, perhaps, no other disease equally insignificant and inconsiderable in its appearance, that so frequently baffles the skill of the surgeon, or so often disappoints the hopes and expectations of the patient. It is in general looked upon by the latter as a complaint more interfering with his personal

comforts and pleasures, than of consequence in itself, or in its results. He thinks that it is, or ought to be, easily and expeditiously cured; and, being unwilling or ashamed to acknowledge that he is the subject of it, it is seldom possible to induce him to acquiesce in the necessary confinement, or to submit with resolution to the strict treatment and abstemiousness now generally recommended for its relief.

Under these circumstances, it is not to be wondered at that most young men, instead of getting rid of a clap in two or three weeks, should be teazed with it for as many months; or that the disease should, in the careless way in which it is commonly treated, so often degenerate into a gleet, or be followed by strictures within the urethra.

The Gonorrhœa is simply and truly a local affection, consisting, as has been stated, in a certain morbid change of

action set up in the secreting vessels of the urethra, in consequence of inflammation having been excited in them by the application of a contagious matter. It is, I believe, very rarely, probably never, followed by constitutional, or what are called *secondary* symptoms, except in cases where mercury has been resorted to for its cure. I speak not, here, of those affections of the eyes and joints, which sometimes occur after Gonorrhœa, and have been taken notice of in some late publications, nor of gleets and strictures; but of that class of symptoms which have been called secondary venereal.

Regarding it, then, simply as a local affection, the best practice undoubtedly is to endeavour to abridge its duration by every means within our power. With this view it is commonly assailed by such internal medicines as are supposed to possess cooling and diuretic properties, by

saline and other mild aperients, an abstemious diet, and a plentiful supply of diluting and mucilaginous drinks; while the external applications consist, for the most part, in cold, evaporating lotions, and a variety of astringent and irritating injections; or in warm fomentations and poultices, according to the preconceived theory or fancy of the practitioner.

Yet these plans of treatment, however skilfully varied and adapted to the circumstances of different cases, very often fail of success. Mr. John Hunter, indeed, has said, that there is no plan of cure that can be depended upon; that the disease gets well as speedily without medicine as with it; and that he has cured many patients with bread pills in as short a time as by any other means. Yet this distinguished surgeon was a firm believer in the doctrine, that Gonorrhœa and Syphilis are the offspring of the same virus. He was

constantly, I believe invariably, in the habit of prescribing mercury for the cure of the former disease; and this he did in all its forms and stages, upon the principle of warding off the accession of secondary symptoms of lues venerea, which he, in common with many others, supposed did sometimes follow its attack*.

Since his time that mineral, in great measure, lost its reputation as a remedy for Gonorrhœa; and in other respects very little if any improvement was made in the management of this complaint. In particular no medicine was offered to the

* It forms no part of the plan of this little Tract, nor is it at all necessary, to enter upon a refutation of this absurd doctrine. I believe, indeed, that it is now pretty generally exploded; for, since the researches of Mr. Rose have fully convinced all reasonable men that every kind of primary venereal sore *may* be cured without the assistance of mercury, it would be too ridiculous to persevere in recommending it for the cure of Gonorrhœa.

consideration of the profession, endued with any thing like a specific power of arresting the morbid action going on in the secreting membrane of the urethra, until within these few years, when the attention of medical men was directed to the Cubebs Pepper.

The Cubebs had long enjoyed in India the credit of curing Gonorrhœa. In this country it had been employed by patients and a few practitioners (chiefly on the recommendation of persons from India), long before it attracted notice in the publications of the day. In 1818, and the following year, the subject was alluded to in several of the periodical Medical Journals, particularly in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, in which two communications upon it appeared, the first by Mr. Crawfurd, January, 1818; and the other by Mr. Adams, January, 1819.

The hope of obtaining so great a desideratum as a new and more efficacious remedy in the cure of this disease, quickly brought the Cubebs into general notice, notwithstanding that it had to contend with no small degree of prejudice and distrust in the minds of medical men; for upon what principle could *a pepper* be considered as a fit remedy for an inflammatory disease?

What may have been the success it has met with in the hands of others I am not prepared to say; but in my own practice it has been such as entirely to remove any diffidence with which I first made trial of it; and to induce me to consider it, not only as a very safe remedy, but in the generality of cases infinitely more useful and expeditious than any which has ever yet been introduced into practice for the cure of Gonorrhœa. The opportunities I have had of witnessing its good effects have

been pretty numerous and extensive; and it is with the view of encouraging others, not in the enjoyment of so large a field of experience, to a patient trial of the virtues of this medicine, that I have ventured (in the absence of more elaborate information on the subject) to lay before the Public these observations and cases in the plain and unadorned dress in which they appear.

The plant from which we derive the Cubebs Pepper (*Piper Cubeba** of Lin-

* The following description of this plant is taken from the Systema Linnæi, curantibus J. J. Roemer, M. D., et J. A. Schultes: Stutgard, 1817.

Piper Cubeba. Foliis enerviis, inferioribus cordatis, superioribus oblongo-ovatis acuminatis, basi obliquis baccis pedicellatis. *Vahl. Enum.* i, p. 332. *Wild. Spec.* i, p. 159. *Handb. d. Pharmac. Bot.* t. 17. (icon fructus.)

Junior planta ab adultiore facie diversa, ramis elongatis radicalibus repens, foliis cordato-lanceolatis, attenuatis, angustis 1½ pollicaribus, petiolis longitudine folii.

In adulta rami flexuosi tetragoni, folia pollicaria, et

næus, Diandria Trigynia) is indigenous in Java; it is found in the woods near Tuntang, in Batavia, where it is known to the natives by the name of Komuchus*; and it is met with in the Isle of France, and other parts of the East Indies, and in Guinea; but that which is imported into this country comes, I believe, exclusively from the two first-mentioned places.

The berries, which are the only part of the plant used in medicine, grow in clusters, in the manner of currants, and when dried, the state in which we receive them,

minora, basi inæqualia; petiolus semipollicaris, canaliculatus. Spicæ pollicares.

In sylvis Javæ, in Guinea, Ins. Franciæ. Fruticans.

See, also, Thunberg's Travels in Japan; Martyn's Gardener's Dictionary, art. Piper; Gœrtner, de Fructibus, ii, 67; and an Account of the Botanical Productions of Batavia, published in the Batavian Transactions by Dr. Horsfield.

* Raffles' History of Batavia.

are somewhat wrinkled on their surface, and of a lightish brown colour, in some degree resembling common pepper in size and shape, but differing from it in being provided, each, with a slender stalk, or pedicle; from which circumstance they have been called by some *Piper Caudatum.* They have a warm, pungent, aromatic, and slightly bitter taste, but in a much milder degree than common pepper; and their smell is fragrant and agreeable. Those which are large, plump, and heavy are to be preferred, as those which are much wrinkled and light may be suspected of having been gathered before they were ripe. The Piper Cubeba was formerly an ingredient in the Mithridate and Theriaca*, but of late years it has not entered into any of the fixed formulæ of our Pharmacopœias; nor does it find a place in the

* Lewis's Edinburgh Dispensatory.

present Materia Medica of the London College. It is, however, more worthy of that distinction than some other articles of more doubtful virtue.

The medicinal properties* of this spice probably reside entirely in an essential or volatile oil, which it contains in considerable quantity. If kept in paper, when first reduced to powder, the paper soon becomes stained by the transudation of this oil, on which account it should be always put into stopper bottles. Proof spirit, digested on the berries, takes up nearly the whole of the oil; and the tinc-

* The following analysis of the seeds of this plant, by M. Vauquelin, is given in the London Medical Repository for December, 1820, p. 523. They contain, "1. A volatile oil, almost concrete. 2. A resin, resembling that of the balsam copaiva. 3. Another resin, but in small quantity, and coloured. 4. Extractive principle, similar to that found in leguminous plants. 5. Saline substances."

ture*, which is thus formed, has a clear reddish brown colour, and possesses all the virtues of the Cubebs. The colour of the powder is darker than that of the berries, and, when fresh, it has an oily feel between the fingers. Taken into the stomach, this medicine does not appear to produce any very particular or predominant action on the system. Like other spices, it is warm and stimulating: in some constitutions it proves mildly aperient, probably by giving tone and vigour to the bowels, in the same way as the celebrated Ward's Paste: in others it has a contrary effect, and castor oil, or some other gentle laxative, is required to be taken occasionally during its exhibition, in order to keep the bowels regular. In some

* Tinctura Cubebæ.

℞ Bacc. Piper. Cubeb. ℥ iij.

Spiritûs Vini Tenuioris, Oj.

Digere per dies septem, et cola.

persons, to whom I have administered the Cubebs, it has produced a considerable degree of headache and nausea; and in one instance (Case XX) the patient was so annoyed by these symptoms as positively to refuse going on with the remedy. When given in large doses, as a drachm and a half or two drachms of the powder* four times in the day, it appears to increase the secretion of urine, which assumes a deeper tinge of colour than usual, is voided somewhat more frequently and in larger quantity at a time, and acquires a peculiar and slightly aromatic odour, which is not unpleasant.

Of the mode in which this medicine operates in the cure of Gonorrhœa, it is

* The powder of Cubebs varies in strength according to the quality of the berries and their freedom from *stalks* and other impurities; but I have not detected any important adulteration in the specimens which I have examined.

not easy to give a satisfactory explanation. Its agency appears to me to resemble in great measure that of copaiva; but whether it is conveyed to the seat of the disease directly, by means of the urine, or indirectly, through the general circulation, or in both ways, I will not take upon myself to decide. It possesses, however, what may justly be called a specific power in most constitutions, especially when administered in the early and acute form of the disease. It moderates the inflammatory and most painful symptoms, and suppresses the quantity of the discharge in a shorter time, and with more certainty, than any other remedy with which I am acquainted. I have reason to believe, that its exhibition is rarely, perhaps never, followed by any of those consequences, which so often take place under the more ordinary modes of treatment, when the discharge is suddenly checked, such as irri-

tation in the bladder, strangury, swelled testicle, &c. It has not, at least, occurred to me to witness any of these accidents in my experience of the remedy; and, as far as I have been enabled to observe, it is in the more inflammatory forms of the disease in which its efficacy is most certainly displayed.

The good effects of the Cubebs Pepper, in cases where it is of service, commonly begin to manifest themselves within forty-eight hours after the exhibition of the first dose: and, I think, that, in the generality of cases, unless some material relief is obtained in the course of five or six days, its continued administration will rarely be attended with advantage. The period in which it has effected a cure, in those cases wherein it has succeeded under my management, has varied from two or three days to a fortnight or more. In many instances it has proved to be of considerable efficacy

where other remedies had been tried in vain, and where the disease was of some standing. Out of the first twenty-one cases in which I prescribed it, taken indiscriminately as they occurred, fourteen were cured, four relieved, and in three it failed. Of those in which it appeared to afford only a partial relief, the want of complete success may fairly be attributed to some irregularity or inattention in the patient's mode of living, or to a carelessness in taking the medicine. Nevertheless, one important advantage has appeared to me to be derived in these cases from the administration of the Cubebs, which is, that the symptoms afterwards yielded with greater facility to Copaiva than under ordinary circumstances. In the instances wherein it failed entirely, the disappointment may have depended on some peculiarity of constitution; but from whatever cause it may have arisen, the proportion

of failures has been far short of that which occurs under the more common plan of treatment.

There appears to be no good reason why the Cubebs should not be combined with any of the other medicines commonly prescribed for the cure of Gonorrhœa; in a few cases I have given it in conjunction with nitre, with the view of profiting by its diuretic properties; but, at present, I am not prepared to say, that any material advantage was derived from the combination. When the more urgent symptoms have been allayed, it has appeared to me, that the cure has been accelerated by the use of a mildly astringent injection.

One of the most common, and perhaps the most intractable of the sequelæ of Gonorrhœa, under ordinary circumstances, is gleet; but I think this will be found to be a less frequent consequence of the disease when it has yielded to a course of Cubebs.

I the following cases, which are submitted in illustration of these remarks, the medicine was desired to be taken in water, and the patient was, in every instance, enjoined rest and an abstemious diet; but in very few was this injunction strictly attended to, or any material restriction put upon the ordinary business and pursuits of life. In these cases it will be noticed, that I have not hesitated to introduce instances of the failure as well as of the success of the remedy I am endeavouring to recommend; and they comprise nearly all of that kind which have occurred. Upon the whole, I trust I have adduced sufficient facts to convince the candid reader, that, although the Cubebs Pepper may not be entitled to the rank of a *Specific* in the cure of Gonorrhœa, it has nevertheless a better claim to that distinction than any medicine that has hitherto been made use of in the treatment

of the complaint; and that, at any rate, it furnishes the surgeon with a remedy of great power, which may be applied in all cases without risk, and in many with a fair chance of a *speedy* and *permanent* cure.

CASES.

CASE I,

In which the Cure was effected in two days, but where frequent relapses took place, in consequence of the Medicine being left off too soon.

An officer of rank in one of the regiments of Guards consulted me for a Gonorrhœa of two days' standing, which had appeared three days after connection, and was attended with ardor urinæ and chordèe. I advised him to take a drachm and a half of the Cubebs Pepper four times a day; and, in compliance with his particular desire, gave him an opiate injection to use twice or three times in the course of the day.

I did not see him again till the end of

nearly five weeks, when he told me, that his complaints had entirely disappeared at the end of twenty-four hours after beginning the Cubebs; but that he left off his medicine immediately, and the complaint speedily returned. This had happened several times. He added, that, for more than a week, he had been quite free from discharge, which had encouraged him to indulge in a connection the day preceding that on which he called on me; and this had been followed by a return of all his symptoms. As he had taken a disgust to the Cubebs in the form of powder, I now directed him to take the saturated tincture instead of it, and begged him to call on me again in a few days. It was, however, a considerable time before I again saw him; and he then told me, that he had got rid of his complaint in two or three days after his last visit to me, and had remained well ever since.

CASE II,

In which the Cure was effected in nine days.

June 14, 1820, D. M., Esq., twenty-four years of age, desired my attendance for a severe attack of Gonorrhœa, which he had been suffering from for a week, and had in vain endeavoured to manage himself. I found him with a profuse discharge of purulent matter from the urethra, great heat and pain in making water, constant uneasiness in the penis, painful erections, particularly at night, together with much swelling of the præpuce, and partial phymosis, arising from excoriation of the whole surface of the glans penis and of the internal membrane of the præpuce. Besides which, there was an induration in the corpus cavernosum, close to the corona glandis on the left side, as big as a pea.

I begged him to confine himself to his sofa and a spare diet, to take a drachm of

the Cubebs four times a day, and envelop the penis in a cold goulard poultice.

June 16. The excoriation was much better, and he could denude the glans. There was much less discharge; and all the painful symptoms were considerably mitigated.

June 19. The induration in the corpus cavernosum was dispersed, and he had no complaint left but a slight discharge.

June 21. The discharge was scarcely perceptible, and in a day or two after it had entirely disappeared.

CASE III,

In which the Cure was effected in twelve days, after other means had failed.

Nov. 8, 1820, the servant of a celebrated physician begged me to give him my advice for a Gonorrhœa of about twelve days' standing. He had been under the care of

a surgeon and apothecary, but had derived no benefit from his treatment.

There was much swelling and pain of the penis; redness and pouting of the orifice of the urethra, from whence issued a large purulent discharge; frequent and painful micturition; chordèe at night; and considerable uneasiness about the pubes, groins, and perinæum.

He was desired to envelop the penis in linen, wetted with cold saturnine lotion, and to take a drachm and a half of the Cubebs powder three or four times a day.

As he was obliged to be out all day with his master's carriage, I did not expect he would receive a very speedy cure.

Nov. 13. All the painful symptoms were relieved, and the discharge had very considerably abated. I now gave him a sedative injection, with acetate of zinc and extract of opium, in addition to the

Cubebs; and on the 20th the discharge was no longer visible.

CASE IV,

In which the Cure was effected in four days, after other means had failed.

A married man, aged about 50 years, had Gonorrhœa, ardor urinæ, and chordèe, with a profuse discharge, and great pain and uneasiness in the perinæum. He had been ill eight days, and had made use of remedies without any relief.

He took a dessert spoonful of the Cubebs three times a day; and in four days all his painful symptoms, together with the discharge, had entirely subsided.

The medicine kept his bowels rather more open than usual.

CASE V,

Of several months' standing, in which other Remedies had failed, cured in a fortnight.

A young man of rank had had a gleety discharge from the urethra for several months, in consequence of a Gonorrhœa, for which he had been using injections, without being able entirely to suppress it. Three days before I saw him he had travelled from Cambridge to town on the outside of a carriage, in consequence of which the discharge had very considerably increased in quantity.

I advised him to go into the tepid bath every other evening, and to take a drachm of the Cubebs Pepper four times a day.

At the end of a week the quantity of discharge was considerably reduced, and at the expiration of a fortnight it had entirely disappeared.

CASE VI,

In which the Cure was effected in nine days.

James Box, aged twenty-nine years, applied at the Dispensary Nov. 6, 1819, with Gonorrhœa, painful tumefaction of the glans penis and præpuce, and frequent micturition.

He took the liquor potassæ, and applied a cold lotion to the penis; but the symptoms did not subside; and on the 11th he was desired to take the Cubebs, in the proportion of a drachm four times a day.

Nov. 16. The œdema and swelling of the præpuce and glans had subsided; the discharge was much lessened; and he could hold his water without difficulty.

He continued his medicine, and in four days more was quite well.

CASE VII,

In which the Cure was effected in seven days.

An officer in the Guards came to me with two small, superficial, spongy sores behind the corona glandis, and a discharge from the urethra of a dirty yellow colour, but unattended by ardor urinæ, or chordèe. He said the sores had existed for nearly a month; and, being much subject to similar complaints, he had contented himself with dressing them with a lotion I had formerly prescribed; that the discharge from the urethra had appeared the preceding day (twelve days after an impure connection), and he was fearful he had contracted Gonorrhœa.

I touched the sores with the sulphate of copper, and gave him the tincture of Cubebs four times a day.

At the end of a week the sores were healed; and the discharge from the urethra had subsided.

CASE VIII,

In which the Cure was effected in three days.

A young baronet desired my attendance for a Gonorrhœa of two days' standing. He said his complaint had appeared twelve days after connection; and it was attended with heat, redness, and pouting of the orifice of the urethra, and scalding in making water. The discharge was purulent, and of a light straw colour.

He kept some linen wetted with cold lotion upon the penis, and took a drachm of the Cubebs four times a day.

At the end of three days all the uneasy sensations, the redness and pouting of the meatus were completely relieved; and there was only a slight appearance of discharge early in the morning.

He continued the medicine a few days longer, and got quite well.

CASE IX,

Wherein a fresh Infection, supervening on a Clap of long standing, was cured in four days.

An officer of Hussars, whose regiment was quartered in Ireland, had been nearly three months ill with Gonorrhœa, for which he had used a variety of remedies to no purpose, when he was obliged to come to London on business, and travelled four or five nights together in the mail. In passing through Dublin he had connection with a prostitute; and on his arrival in town he found that his complaint was as bad as ever. He went into a warm bath the morning of his arrival, and in the afternoon called upon me. He had a profuse discharge, pain and scalding in making water, and a good deal of chordèe; and general uneasiness about the penis, perinæum, and groins.

He took a drachm of Cubebs four times

a day, and went about transacting the business which had brought him to town.

Four days afterwards he called on me again, equally pleased and astonished at his rapid amendment: the discharge was scarcely perceptible, and he had no other symptom left. He started that evening on his return to Ireland, and took a cargo of the Cubebs with him.

CASE X,

In which the Cure was effected in a few days.

A gentleman, about thirty-five years of age, who had often had Gonorrhœa, and been always long in getting well of it, demanded my assistance for a discharge from the urethra, which he had observed on the morning of the day he called on me. It was accompanied with redness and swelling of the orifice of the canal, but with no other symptom. He said he

had had a suspicious connection three days before, and had no doubt of the nature of his complaint.

I begged him to take the Cubebs, in the quantity of a drachm four times a day; and, in compliance with his request, prescribed an opiate injection with acetate of zinc.

I did not see this gentleman again; but have since learned, that he got well in a very few days.

CASE XI,

In which the Symptoms subsided in eight days, when other means had failed; but returned in consequence of the medicine being left off too soon.

John Maunder, twenty-two years of age, became my patient at the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, Dec. 9, 1819. He had had symptoms of Gonorrhœa for three months, and, at the time of his admission, there was a thin, gleety discharge

from the urethra, with some degree of ardor urinæ and chordèe. He had been under treatment, and had taken a good number of pills, without much benefit.

I put him on the tincture of Cubebs, of which he took a tea spoonful four times a day. The discharge, and other symptoms, gradually subsided, and on the 17th had entirely left him. He then discontinued his medicine without leave; but was obliged to resume it again in two days, in consequence of the discharge returning; and in about a week was quite well.

CASE XII,

In which the Cure was effected in six days.

R. S. C., Esq., had had a Gonorrhœa for eight days, when he consulted me for its relief. There was a good deal of discharge from the urethra, pain and smarting in making water, and chordèe at

night. In addition to these symptoms, he had a painful enlargement of an absorbent gland in each groin.

He applied a cold, saturnine wash to the penis; and took a drachm of powdered Cubebs, with six grains of nitre, four times a day.

At the end of three days the pain in the groins was relieved, and the swellings were dispersed; the discharge from the urethra had diminished in quantity, but he still complained of much smarting in voiding his urine. He continued the powders; and, as his bowels were rather confined, he took occasionally a dose of castor oil.

At the expiration of three more days, scarcely any discharge could be perceived, and he had no other symptom remaining.

This gentleman was much pleased with his rapid cure. He had often had the disease before, but never got well in less than two or three months.

CASE XIII,

In which the Cure was effected in about a week.

John Sullivan, twenty-one years of age, became my patient at the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, June 17, 1819. He had profuse Gonorrhæa virulenta; great frequency and pain in voiding his urine, which came away in small quantities at a time; and so much chordèe and pain at night as to keep him awake. He had been ill a fortnight, and had used no remedies.

He was desired to keep the penis folded up in rags wetted with cold lotion, and to take a large tea spoonful of the tincture of Cubebs four times a day.

June 22. All the symptoms were very considerably relieved, and the discharge was rapidly subsiding. He complained of costiveness, and had a dose of Epsom salts.

This man did not return to the Dispensary; but it is fair to suppose that he got quite well.

CASE XIV,

Of two months' standing, wherein the Cubebs failed.

Robert Hume, aged twenty-three, applied at the Dispensary June 17, 1819. He said he had been ill with Gonorrhœa for two months, and had been using remedies, by means of which the painful symptoms had been removed; but he was unable to get rid of the discharge, which was still very abundant, thick, and purulent.

I put him on the tincture of Cubebs, of which he took a tea spoonful four times a day. At the end of a week no diminution had taken place in the quantity of the discharge, and the Copaiva was therefore substituted for the Cubebs, by the use of

which I suppose he got well, as I saw him no more.

CASE XV,

In which the Disease relapsed, and was speedily cured by means of Copaiva.

John Ellis, aged twenty-seven years, was admitted on the books of the Dispensary Sept. 21, 1819, with Gonorrhœa, ardor urinæ, chordèe, and a painful enlargement of a gland in the right groin, as big as a filbert. He said he had been ill a week.

He applied a cold, saturnine lotion to the penis, and took a drachm and a half of the tincture of Cubebs four times a day.

Sept. 25. The symptoms were very little relieved, and a drachm of the powdered Cubebs was substituted for the tincture.

Sept. 28. The discharge and ardor urinæ had nearly subsided, but he still complained of chordèe at night: he was,

therefore, ordered to take a drachm of the vinum colchici at bedtime for two nights; but by mistake he took it in the morning. This medicine purged him, and excited nausea; but he had less chordèe at night; and on the 30th scarcely any discharge could be observed.

Oct. 5. The discharge had returned in a slight degree. Copaiva was now substituted for the Cubebs; and in four days no appearance of complaint was remaining.

CASE XVI,

Cured in a week.

Francis Simpkins, aged thirty-four, had a purulent discharge from the urethra, without any other symptom, of about a weeks' duration. He took the tincture of Cubebs, and at the end of a week was quite cured.

This man complained of headach and giddiness while taking the medicine.

CASE XVII,

In which the symptoms were relieved, but where the remedy failed in consequence of the Patient's irregularity of life.

Dec. 23, 1819, a young man, about twenty-five years of age, desired my advice for a Gonorrhœa of two or three days' standing. There was a profuse discharge from the urethra, of a thin, greenish coloured matter, pouting and redness of the meatus externus, a good deal of scalding in evacuating his urine, and at night he was much annoyed with chordèe and painful erections.

I desired him to take a drachm and a half of the powdered Cubebs four times in the day.

Dec. 27. The discharge was increased in quantity, but more purulent in its appearance: the other symptoms were not diminished. I, therefore, directed him to

take a tea spoonful of the tincture with each powder.

Dec. 29. The medicine agreed very well with his stomach; the discharge was very much abated, and he had scarcely any remains of scalding or chordèe.

Having got rid of his painful symptoms he cared little for the discharge, and being a dissolute fellow he led an irregular life; in consequence of which the discharge again increased in quantity, and the Cubebs lost its effect upon it, and was discontinued.

CASE XVIII,

In which the Cure was not perfect, and the disease yielded to Copaiva.

Thomas Smith, forty-one years of age, was admitted a patient under my care at the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, June 1st, 1819, with a profuse Gonorrhœa, œdematous swelling of the

præpuce, ardor urinæ, a good deal of chordèe, which disturbed his rest at night, and pain and uneasiness in the region of the kidneys. He had been ill three weeks.

I directed him to take a tea spoonful of the saturated tincture of Cubebs four times a day, in a glass of barley water.

June 8. He said, that for the first two or three days after he had begun to take his medicine there had been an increase of all his symptoms; but they were now considerably diminished, and the discharge was thicker and less in quantity. He complained of pruritus all along the urethra.

June 10. The pruritus and the discharge were much abated; and, on the 17th, scarcely any matter could be squeezed out of the urethra.

June 22. There was a slight return of the running, with some degree of smarting when voiding his water.

The Cubebs was, therefore, disconti-

nued, and he was put on the use of Copaiva, under which the symptoms disappeared in the course of a week.

CASE XIX,

In which a relapse of the Complaint was cured by Copaiva.

George Wilson, twenty-two years of age, had been ill of Gonorrhœa for three weeks when he was admitted under my care at the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, March 9, 1819.

His symptoms then were, an abundant discharge of purulent matter from the urethra, considerable pain and irritation all along that canal, pain and smarting in passing his water, chordèe at night, and uneasiness about the pubes and groins.

He was desired to take a drachm of the powdered Cubebs three times a day; and, as his bowels were in a costive state, he

had half an ounce of castor oil every morning.

March 11. The pain in the pubes and groins, and the ardor urinæ and chordèe were considerably relieved; but the discharge did not appear to be diminished in quantity, or altered in its appearance.

I desired him to live low, and to take his medicine four times in the day.

March 16. The discharge was still abundant and thin; and he complained of slight scalding when he made water, and of painful erections at night.

He continued the use of the Cubebs, and had a sedative injection to use three times a day.

March 18. The discharge was much lessened, and he had no other symptom remaining.

March 23. The discharge was subsiding very slowly, and he again complained of some degree of scalding and chordèe.

The Cubebs was, therefore, left off, and he took Copaiva, under which the remnant of his complaint was removed in about a week.

CASE XX,

In which the Cubebs disagreed, and was discontinued.

A gentleman called on me and stated, that, four days before, he had been toying for a long time with a woman, who resisted the gratification of his desires; and that, in a few hours after he left her, a slight discharge appeared from the urethra, accompanied with some degree of uneasiness when he voided his urine. Two days afterwards these symptoms had nearly disappeared; but in the evening of the second day he had connection with the same person, and on the following morning (the day before I saw him) the discharge had returned. It was now very abundant and

purulent in its appearance, accompanied with an uneasy, trickling sensation along the urethra, slight inflammation of the meatus externus, and some degree of pain when passing his water.

I begged him to take two tea spoonfuls of the saturated tincture of Cubebs four times a day, in a glass of water. The next day he came to me again, complaining of much nausea, headache, and giddiness, and positively refused to go on with the medicine: the discharge and other symptoms had not abated.

He was therefore put on a different plan of treatment, and got well in about ten days.

CASE XXI,

In which the Cubebs entirely failed.

March 22, 1819. A gentleman, about twenty-four years of age, called on me for my advice for a discharge of a yellow

coloured matter from the urethra, accompanied with a good deal of trickling sensation along the course of that canal. He stated, that he had observed it on getting out of bed the preceding morning; and that he had had a suspicious connection about a week before. He added, that he had repeatedly been the subject of Gonorrhœa, which had always lasted a long while, and generally degenerated into a gleet.

I desired him to wrap the penis up in linen wetted with cold lotion, and to take a drachm of the powdered Cubebs four times a day in a glass of cold water. He was also enjoined an abstemious diet, with rest and quietness; but being a member of the House of Commons, and much engaged in fashionable society, he paid little attention to this part of my advice.

On the 24th he called on me again. The discharge was increased in quantity,

pale and thin; but no additional symptom had come on.

On the 25th it was still increasing in quantity, but thicker and more purulent; and he complained of more pain and irritation in the urethra when voiding his urine. Under these circumstances the Cubebs was discontinued, and he was put on the usual mode of treatment, under which he, at length, got well.

CASE XXII,

In which the Cure was completed within a week.

A young medical friend contracted a Gonorrhœa in July, 1820, which was attended with much ardor urinæ, a frequent desire to pass his urine, and such repeated and painful erections, particularly at night, as very much to disturb his rest.

Being very desirous to get rid of these troublesome symptoms, he began by tak-

ing half an ounce of the tincture of Cubebs every four hours. On the following day the scalding had nearly subsided, the erections were less frequent and less painful, and the discharge had considerably diminished. At the same time he observed, that his urine had acquired a deeper orange colour than usual, and gave out a peculiar odour. He now took the medicine four times in the day; his nights were undisturbed by chordèe, the discharge and ardor urinæ rapidly subsided; and at the expiration of a week he was quite well, and soon after left off his medicine.

CASE XXIII,

Wherein much benefit was derived, in spite of frequent relapses.

Isaac Pottle, twenty-three years of age, was admitted a patient under my care at the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, April 8, 1820, with severe Gonor-

rhœa virulenta, much heat and smarting in voiding his water, chordèe, and painful erections.

He was desired to apply linen, wetted with cold saturnine lotion, to the penis, and to take a drachm and a half of the Cubebs Pepper three times a day.

April 11. The medicine had agreed very well; and he said, that the discharge and all the other symptoms had disappeared in twenty-four hours after taking the first dose of the Cubebs. He had no appearance of complaint remaining: nevertheless he was desired to continue the remedy until the 18th, when, being to all appearance quite well, it was left off.

April 20. He complained of pain and uneasiness about the region of the bladder, which was increased when he made water.

April 22. There was a return of the discharge from the urethra, with scalding in making water, and slight chordèe. The

pain in the bladder was relieved by the recurrence of these symptoms.

He took thirty drops of the liquor potassæ three times a day.

April 25. The irritation in the bladder was removed, the scalding and chordèe had subsided, and his only complaint was a copious, thick, yellow discharge from the urethra.

I now put him on the use of copaiva, of which he took thirty drops three times in the day; but, instead of getting well, the scalding and chordèe returned; and on the 6th of May his complaints were nearly as bad as at first. I suspected that he had contracted a fresh infection, and ordered him to take a drachm and a half of the Cubebs three times a day.

May 13. He said the discharge had entirely ceased for three days; but he still complained of some degree of uneasiness along the urethra when he voided his urine, and of slight chordèe. On the 16th

these symptoms had disappeared; and on the 23d he was discharged cured.

May 30. He returned to the Dispensary with all the appearances of a fresh infection, and was again put on the use of the Cubebs.

June 6. The discharge from the urethra had nearly stopped, and he had no other symptom remaining.

I did not see this patient again until the 15th of July, when he said, that he had been free from all appearance of complaint for three weeks; and had been in the country, from whence he had returned four days before. He had now, however, all the symptoms of Gonorrhœa, which he said appeared the preceding day. He had evidently contracted the disease again, but was unwilling to acknowledge it, and declared he had had no connection, except with his wife; and soon after discontinued his attendance.

CASE XXIV,

In which the acute symptoms were relieved in about a week, and the discharge disappeared in eighteen days.

Daniel Brady, thirty years of age, was admitted my patient at the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, Dec. 19, 1820, having a profuse discharge from the urethra, heat and pain in voiding his urine, chordèe at night, and an inflamed gland in the left groin. He had been ill five days.

He was directed a cold lotion for the penis, and to take a drachm of the Cubebs, with ten grains of nitre, four times a day.

December 23. The scalding and chordèe were relieved, and the discharge was reduced in quantity, and thicker; but it was very slightly tinged with blood, and there was some degree of œdema of the præpuce.

January 6, 1821. He had no complaint left but a very slight discharge, and in a few days afterwards he was dismissed cured.

CASE XXV,

Of two months' standing, in which great relief was obtained in six days, after other treatment had failed.

Thomas Derby, twenty-one years of age, applied at the Dispensary February 1, 1821, with Gonorrhœa, ardor urinæ, chordèe, and an inflamed gland in the groin.

He said he had been ill two months, and had got rid of the painful symptoms; but that about ten days before I saw him he had had a suspicious connection, which was followed by a return of all the acute symptoms.

I ordered him to take a drachm of the Cubebs four times a day.

February 3. The discharge, and all the other symptoms were considerably abated, and the enlarged gland in the groin was subsiding. He complained of headache and costiveness, and had a dose of castor oil.

Feb. 6. He had no complaint left: headache relieved.

He was now ordered to take the Cubebs twice a day; but it is probable that he did not obey this injunction, for on the 13th he had a slight return of discharge, without any other symptom; I therefore substituted the Copaiva, under the use of which the discharge gradually disappeared, and he got well.

CASE XXVI,

Where the Cure was effected after other means had failed.

Mark Mills, twenty-five years old, was admitted at the Dispensary Feb. 24, 1821,

labouring under symptoms of Gonorrhœa virulenta, of a fortnight's standing, for the cure of which he had been under surgical treatment without any benefit.

I desired him to take a drachm of Cubebs four times a day, and to envelop the penis in linen, wetted with cold lotion.

Feb. 27. The discharge and other symptoms had nearly subsided. He complained of purging, and had four stools a day.

March 3. He had taken the medicine in diminished doses: there was a return of the discharge, and he complained of a good deal of chordèe at night. For this symptom he was prescribed a drachm of the vinum colchici every night in camphor julep, and went on with the Cubebs in the day, in full doses. Under this plan he rapidly improved, and on the 13th had no complaint remaining.

CASE XXVII,

Of nearly twelve weeks standing, which yielded in six days, after other treatment had been tried without success.

Francis Fryer, twenty-two years of age, became my patient March 6, 1821. There was severe excoriation of the whole surface of the glans penis and internal præpuce, from whence, and from the urethra, issued a most profuse discharge of purulent matter. He complained of frequency and much smarting in voiding his urine, of frequent and very painful erections, and of constant pain and uneasiness in the region of the bladder, groins, and perinæum.

He said he had been ill nearly twelve weeks, and had undergone a good deal of surgical treatment without any benefit.

He took a drachm of the Cubebs four times a day, and had a solution of the sulphate of zinc for the excoriation.

March 8. The excoriation was healed, the discharge from the urethra had nearly disappeared, the pain in the bladder, groins, and perinæum was quite relieved, and he could pass his urine with more freedom and ease.

March 10. The discharge was scarcely visible: he complained of purging.

On the 12th the discharge had completely ceased; but on that day he got drunk, and on the following morning it again showed itself.

On the 17th it was increasing, in consequence of having neglected to take his medicine; and after this time he did not again show himself at the Dispensary.

It would be a work of supererogation, I presume, to swell out the number of Cases by the addition of others. Those already detailed must be sufficient to convince any reasonable man of the truth of the position they are intended to establish, *viz.* that the Cubebs is not only a very powerful and efficacious remedy in the treatment of Gonorrhœa, but surpasses in safety and expedition every other medicine that has been hitherto recommended for the cure of that disease.

In stating this I am anxious not to be misunderstood. The Cubebs is not infallible: it occasionally fails of effecting a cure; and this may depend on a variety of causes, either singly or combined. Peculiarity of constitution, adulteration or other imperfection of the remedy, inattention to a due restraint of exercise, diet, and mode of living during its administration, and

many other circumstances, may contribute to the prevention of a perfect cure; but such failures ought not to detract from the general merits of the medicine.

Its introduction into general practice must at any rate be considered as a measure of great importance. In making trial of its virtues I have fulfilled what the Editors of the London Medical Repository considered to be "an imperative duty on every practitioner of surgery;" and, in recording my experience of its merits, I have only endeavoured to meet the invitation thrown out in the concluding paragraph of Mr. Adams's letter in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, already alluded to.

The Cases, which I have related, have been taken without any particular selection, almost in the order in which they occurred to my observation. For the purpose of enabling the Reader to take a

comprehensive view of the whole, I have subjoined the following

TABLE,

EXHIBITING THE RESULT OF TWENTY-SEVEN CASES OF GONORRHŒA, TREATED WITH THE CUBEBS, OR JAVA PEPPER.

Total Number of Cases treated	27
Of which were cured	18
relieved	6
Failures	3
	27

Of those which were cured,

Case	
I was cured in	2 days.
II	9
III	12
IV	4
V	14
VI	9
VII	7
VIII	3
IX	4
X	a few days.
XI	8
XII	6
XIII	a short time.
XVI	7
XXII	7
XXIV	18
XXVI	17
XXVII	6

The Cases which were relieved were,

Case ... XV
XVII
XVIII
XIX
XXIII
XXV

The failures were,

Case XIV
XX
XXI

Of the cases, in which the exhibition of Cubebs was attended with success, the subjects of I, III, and X also made use of injections. In Cases IV, XXVI, and XXVII the medicine appeared to render the bowels more relaxed than usual; and in XIII and XXV more costive. In Case XVI it excited headache and giddiness. In the remainder its administration did not appear to be productive of any particular influence on the animal economy. The shortest period in which a cure was effected was under two days (Case I); and the longest period eighteen days (Case XXIV). In Cases III, IV, V, XI, XXVI, and XXVII, the Cubebs succeeded perfectly, after other remedies had been tried without effect.

Of the Cases in which a complete cure was not effected, the failure probably arose from some inattention or irregularity in the patient's mode of living; or from his

discontinuing the medicine too soon. In Case XVII this was decidedly the reason. In Cases XV, XVIII, and XIX, the remaining symptoms of the disease very rapidly disappeared under the use of Copaiva. In XIX the latter medicine was assisted with an injection. Although a perfect cure was not accomplished in these instances, yet very marked benefit was derived in all of them from the exhibition of the Cubebs.

Of the cases wherein the remedy failed entirely, in Case XIV the disease was of two months' standing, and had degenerated into a gleet*. In Case XX the disease was simply an increased secretion of the natural mucous discharge of the urethra, in consequence of irritation from the long continued excitement of lascivious ideas.

* I am aware, that the Cubebs has the reputation of curing gleet; but, according to my present experience, it exercises much more limited powers over that form of disease than over a recent Gonorrhœa.

In this case the medicine cannot be said to have had a fair trial, as it was left off before there could have been time for the full development of its powers. In Case XXI the medicine would have had a better chance of success if the patient had lived quietly, and confined himself to the house.

As far as I have hitherto been able to ascertain, there is no symptom attending Gonorrhœa, which contra-indicates the use of Cubebs. I have not scrupled to prescribe it in all the stages, and under all the circumstances of the complaint, and as yet have had no reason to repent of so doing.

In conclusion, I would beg leave earnestly to impress on the Reader the absolute necessity of seeing that the Cubebs is freshly powdered, and free from adulteration. It is of great importance, also, that the medicine should not be left off too soon after the disappearance of the symptoms. I think that it should be taken for

at least a week after the discharge has entirely ceased; but it may be given during that period in diminished doses, or at longer intervals. By neglecting to observe this precaution, several patients have subjected themselves to a relapse of the complaint. In others, the disease has been converted into a gleet. It will also tend in an eminent degree to promote a speedy recovery if the patient can be persuaded to confine himself to the house, and to an abstemious diet.

In short, if all the rules of diet and rest, which are enjoined in the common mode of treating Gonorrhœa, be strictly observed under the use of Cubebs, the patient can hardly fail of obtaining a certain and permanent cure, with less risk, and in a shorter period, than by any other means.

THE END.

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